

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 SP-02 L-01

H-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 ACDA-10 OMB-01

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R 260950Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2800

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMMEMBASSY THE HAGUE 1110

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 11920

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KS, VA

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR SAITO'S REPORTED PRESS REMARKS ON KOREA RES-
OLUTIONS

REF: STATE 201427

SUMMARY: UPON LEARNING THAT JIJI REPORT OF AMBASSADOR SAITO'S
PRESS CONFERENCE ESSENTIALLY CORRECT, EMBASSY MADE STRONG
REPRESENTATION AS INSTRUCTED. UNOFFICIAL FONOFF RESPONSE WAS COOL
AND UNYIELDING AND STRESSED BOTH NEED TO KEEP JAPANESE PUBLIC
OBJECTIVELY INFORMED AS WELL AS REQUIREMENT TO WORK HARD
IN SUPPORT OF FRIENDLY UN POSITION. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFF CALLED ON FONOFF UN/POL DIV DIR KOBAYASHI
AUG 25 TO TAKE UP JIJI PRESS REPORT OF AMBASSADOR SAITO'S
REMARKS ON KOREA RESOLUTIONS. KOBAYASHI CONFIRMED THAT
REPORT WAS ESSENTIALLY CORRECT, ALTHOUGH IT FAILED TO
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DO FULL JUSTICE NUANCES OF AMBASSADOR'S PRESENTATION.

2. EMBOFF EXPRESSED SURPRISE AND DISBELIEF AS INSTRUCTED
REFTEL, DESCRIBED POTENTIAL DMAAGE TO OUR POSITION,

DEPLORED INOPPORTUNE TIMING OF REMARKS AND REQUESTED EXPLANATION. HE URGED THAT APPROPRIATE STEPS BE TAKEN ALONG LINES REFTEL PARA 3 TO LESSEN ADVERSE IMPACT OF REMARKS.

3. KOBAYASHI REPLIED THAT HE NOT YET IN POSITION TO PROVIDE FORMAL RESPONSE, BUT WISHED TO MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS UNOFFICIALLY:

A) AMBASSADOR SAITO'S REMARKS WERE MADE IN RESPONSE TO PRESS INQUIRIES. HIS PURPOSE IN BEING SO FRANK MAY WELL HAVE BEEN TO INFORM JAPANESE PUBLIC OPINION IN THE MOST OBJECTIVE WAY.

B) KOBAYASHI DISAGREED THAT SAITO'S REMARKS WOULD AFFECT ADVERSELY THE POSITIONS OF GOVERNMENTS THAT HAD YET TO MAKE UP THEIR MINDS ON THE KOREAN ISSUE. IN THE MEANTIME IT WAS IMPORTANT TO PREPARE PUBLIC OPINION TO ACCEPT REALITIES AS THEY ARE UNFORTUNATE REALITY IN THE UN IS THAT SUPPORT FOR ISSUES BASED ON POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS RATHER THAN MERITS OF CASE. AMBASSADOR SAITO HAD MADE THIS POINT CLEARLY DURING PRESS CONFERENCE.

C) SAITO STRESSED AT PRESS CONFERENCE THAT GOJ WOULD DO ITS UPMOST TO GET MAJORITY OF SUPPORTERS FOR FRIENDLY RESOLUTION AND TO DEFEAT HOSTILE RESOLUTION.

4. EMBOFF REITERATED USG ESTIMATE OF DAMAGE TO FRIENDLY POSITION AND EXPRESSED STRONG HOPE THAT EXPLANATION WOULD BE FORTHCOMING WHEN OFFICIAL RESPONSE PREPARED. MATTER LIKELY TO BE SUBJECT FOR DEMARCHES AT HIGHER LEVELS, HE CONCLUDED.

5. COMMENT: KOBAYASHI'S REMARKS TECHNICALLY ARE UNOFFICIAL, BUT HE KNEW OF SUBJECT OF EMBOFF'S CALL IN ADVANCE AND HAD SOME CHANCE TO PREPARE THEM. THEY INDICATE THAT HE SHARES SAITO'S VIEWS AND WOULD SEE GREAT DIFFICULTY IN RETRACTING THEM. CONFIDENTIAL

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WE THINK SAITO WAS MOTIVATED BY DESIRE TO MINIMIZE DOMESTIC CRITICISM OF GOJ IF FRIENDLY RESOLUTION FAILS, AND MAXIMIZED IMPACT IF IT WINS. LIKEWISE, GOJ WANTS TO AVOID SURPRISED ADVERSE REACTION IF HOSTILE RESOLUTION IS PASSED. GOJ POOR-MOUTHED PROSPECTS FOR CAMBODIAN RESOLUTIONS LAST YEAR IN ROUGHLY SAME WAY FOR SAME REASONS.

6. SAITO'S PLEDGE THAT GOJ WILL DO UTMOST TO GAIN PASSAGE OF FRIENDLY RESOLUTION AND DEFEAT OF HOSTILE RESOLUTION SEEM GENUINE. LAST YEAR, HAVING HEDGED ITS BETS AND PROTECTED ITSELF AGAINST FUTURE CRITICISM, GOJ TURNED TO WORK AND DID A VIGOROUS JOB IN SUPPORT OF KHMER POSITION.

SAME THING LIKELY THIS YEAR PROVIDED WE KEEP IN TOUCH AND
COORDINATE OUR EFFORTS.

7. KOBAYASHI TOOK CAREFUL NOTE OF EMBOFF'S REMARKS AND
PROMISED TO PASS US REACTION ON TO HIS SUPERIORS. WE
EXPECT THAT GOJ WILL RESPOND AT HIGHER LEVELS, AND RECOMMEND
THAT WE WAIT FOR REPLY BEFORE CONSIDERING ANY FURTHER
FORMAL ACTION. IN MEANTIME, EMBASSY WILL SEEK OPPORTUNITY TO
REITERATE US POSITION AT HIGHER LEVELS IN COURSE OF REGULAR CONTACTS.
HODGSON

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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